

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 6, and 8 – 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purtilo “Improving module reuse by interface adaptation,” p. 208 – 217 in view of Toutonghi et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,438,744 B2).

It is respectfully submitted that Toutonghi is an improper prior art reference. Toutonghi was filed on 15 July 1998 and issued on 20 August 2002. In contrast, the above-captioned application claims foreign priority to German application 19800102.9, filed 2 January 1998 and to German application 19807191.4, filed 20 February 1998. Each of these applications to which the above-captioned application claims priority pre-date the effective date of Toutonghi. Accordingly, Toutonghi is not a proper prior art reference.

The Office recognizes that Purtilo, by itself, is not a basis for rejecting claim 1. Specifically, the Examiner stated:

As to claim 1, ... Purtilo teaches first and second components programmer-defined interfaces. However, Purtilo does not explicitly teach first and second components independent of programmer-defined interfaces.

Claim 1 is amended to recite “data acquisition, by means of the running time system, of data of a second component into said first component without any need for programmer-defined interfaces in said second component.” Claim 1 further recites “data disposal by means of the running time system, of data of said first component into said second component without any need for programmer-defined interfaces in said second component.” Support for the amendments to claim 1 may be found in the specification on page 2, lines 30 – 32. The amendments are made to clarify that the language “independent of programmer-defined interfaces” (which we are advised is the correct and literal translation of the German-language wording from the priority documents) meant that the second component does not require any programmer-defined interfaces.

Because the Office recognizes that Purtilo, by itself, is not a basis for rejecting claim 1 and because Toutonghi is not a proper reference, it is believed that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Purtilo and Toutonghi et al. be withdrawn.

Claims 3 – 6 and 8 – 9 depend from allowable claim 1. Thus, it is believed that claims 3 – 6 and 8 – 9 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3 – 6 and 8 – 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Purtilo and Toutonghi et al. be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purtilo "Improving module reuse by interface adaptation," p. 208 – 217, in view of Toutonghi (U.S. Patent Number 6,438,744), and further in view of Craze (U.S. Pat. No.: 5,809,564).

Claim 2 and 7 depend from allowable claim 1. As discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Toutonghi is an improper prior art reference and Purtilo fails to teach first and second components independent of programmer-defined interfaces. It is respectfully submitted that, Craze fails to provide the missing teachings. Thus, it is believed that claims 2 and 7 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Purtilo in view of Toutonghi and in further view of Craze be withdrawn.

Claims 10 – 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purtilo "Improving module reuse by interface adaptation," p. 208 – 217. As to claim 10, the Examiner states that Purtilo teaches the step of "modifying the components where at least one docking point was found by entering call information."

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has misconstrued the teachings of Purtilo, which, in fact, teaches away from modifying any component. More specifically, Purtilo states "the central idea is to provide this parameter-coercion capability without changing the source code of the modules involved" (see page 208, right column, lines 5 – 7, emphasis added). Instead of changing any existing module, Purtilo teaches the creation of an additional execution-time module to perform the coercion during each invocation (see page 208, right column, lines 11 – 17.)

Additionally (for the reasons discussed above in conjunction with claim 1), claim 10 is amended to recite "wherein said expansion of said program component system is completed without any need for programmer-defined expansion interfaces in said several components." Purtilo, as recognized by the Office, fails to teach first and second components independent of programmer-defined interfaces.

Thus, it is believed that claim 10 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Purtilo be withdrawn.

Claims 11 – 13 depend from allowable claim 10. Thus, it is believed that claims 11 – 13 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 11 – 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Purtilo be withdrawn.

Claims 14 – 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purtilo "Improving module reuse by interface adaptation," p. 208 – 217, in view of Dievendorff et al. (U.S. Pat. No.: 6,425,017).

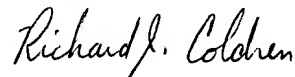
It is respectfully submitted that Dievendorff is an improper prior art reference. Dievendorff was filed on 17 August 1998 and issued on 23 July 2003. As discussed above, the above-captioned application claims foreign priority to German application 19800102.9, filed 2 January 1998 and to German application 19807191.4, filed 20 February 1998. Each of these applications to which the above-captioned application claims priority pre-date the effective date of Dievendorff. Accordingly, Dievendorff is not a proper prior art reference.

The Office recognizes that Purtilo, by itself, is not a basis for rejecting claim 14. Specifically, the Examiner stated "Purtilo does not teach the step of generating at least one binary object from the definition of the further component." Because the Office recognizes that Purtilo, by itself, is not a basis for rejecting claim 14, and because Dievendorff is not a proper reference, it is believed that claim 14 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Purtilo and Dievendorff et al. be withdrawn.

Claims 15 – 16 depend from allowable claim 14. Thus for the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with claim 14, it is believed that claims 15 – 16 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 15 – 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Purtilo in view of Dievendorff be withdrawn.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the instant application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for claims 1 – 16 is earnestly requested. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for disposition other than by allowance, he is respectfully requested to contact applicants' attorney at the phone number listed below so that additional changes to the claims may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted



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